

Lesson 3

Ben Franklin

1706–1790

Famous Patriots

PEOPLE TO KNOW

Abigail Adams
John Adams
Samuel Adams
Benjamin Franklin
John Hancock
Paul Revere
Deborah Samson
George Washington
Phillis Wheatley

PLACES TO LOCATE

Pennsylvania
Boston
Quincy

WORDS TO UNDERSTAND

almanac
boycott
engraving
opinion
pamphlet
politics
publish
rights

What do you know about Benjamin Franklin? You may know that he discovered lightning was electricity. He did much more than that. Read on to find out why he is so famous today.

Young Ben

Ben Franklin was the 15th child in his family. His father was a soap and candle maker in Boston. Because his family was very poor, young Ben only went to school for about two years.

Ben was a bright boy who loved to read. When he looked for his first job, he went to his brother James. James ran a printing shop. He made Ben an apprentice.

Ben the Printer

Ben quickly learned the printing trade. He did not get along well with his brother, and he ran away from Boston. He went to Pennsylvania and worked for another printer. Before long, he set up his own print shop.

Ben the Writer

Ben loved to write. He bought a newspaper business. He wrote many funny stories for the newspaper. Readers liked his sense of humor. Ben also wrote and printed a book that made him famous. It was called *Poor Richard's Almanac*.

An *almanac* is a book that tells about the weather, ocean tides, and the movement of the sun, stars, and moon. Farmers used the almanac to learn when to plant their crops. The almanac also had good advice like, "A plowman on his legs is higher than a gentleman on his horse." What do you think he meant by that?

Before long, Franklin's almanac was read in every colony. People in Europe were reading it too. The almanac made Ben rich

Massachusetts, Our Home